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**Tommy Tales feature the lovable rascal Tommy
Tompkins and his friends.**

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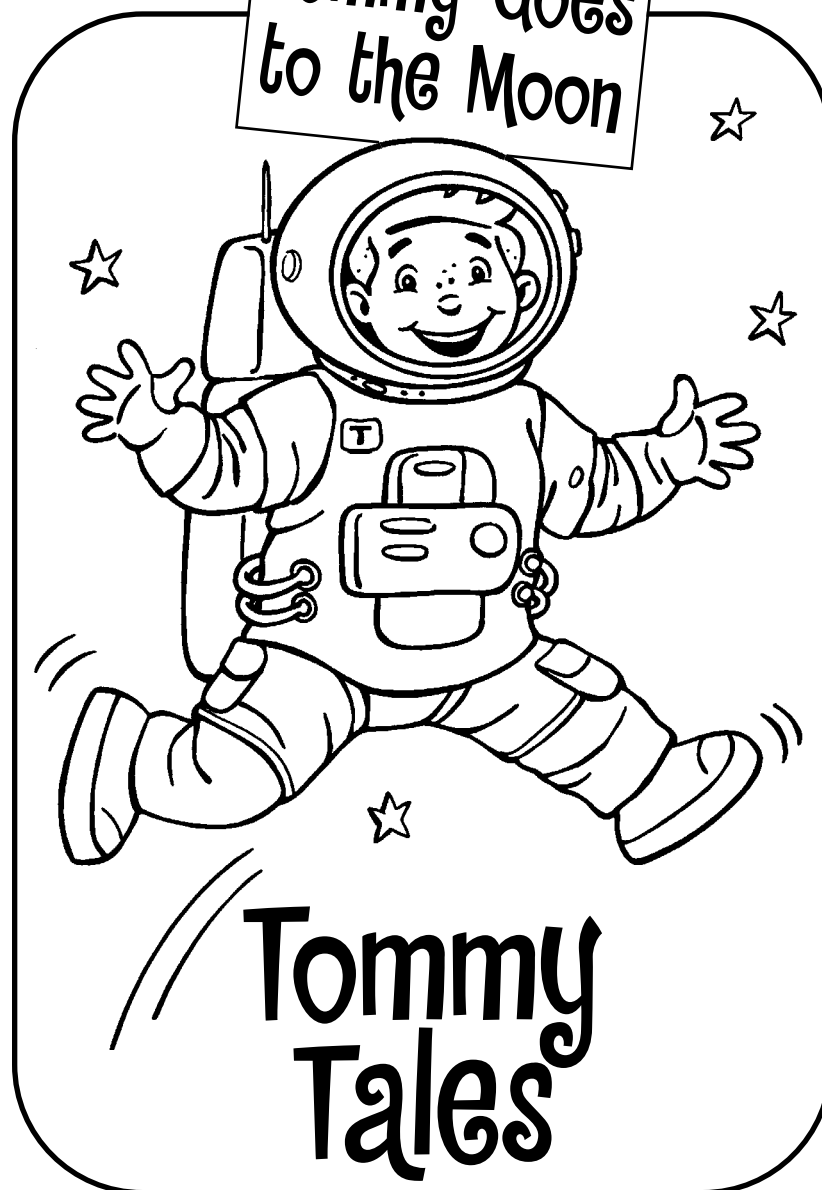
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BOOK 23



Tommy Goes to the Moon





Tommy and his friends met at the park after school. They played near the big blue bench. It was getting dark when Kim pointed up at the sky. "Look, look!" she said.

"Look at what?" asked Tommy.

"The moon, of course. It's so big and bright," Kim answered.

"It's made of cheese," said Sam.

All the others laughed.

Sam was the first to open her tube.
 "Guess what's in these tubes," laughed Sam.
 "It's cheese!"

Commander Armstrong told the children to wait by the Eagle while they put a flag on a little hill.



As the astronauts walked away, Tommy said to RK-5, "You'd better take us back, before we have a lot of explaining to do."

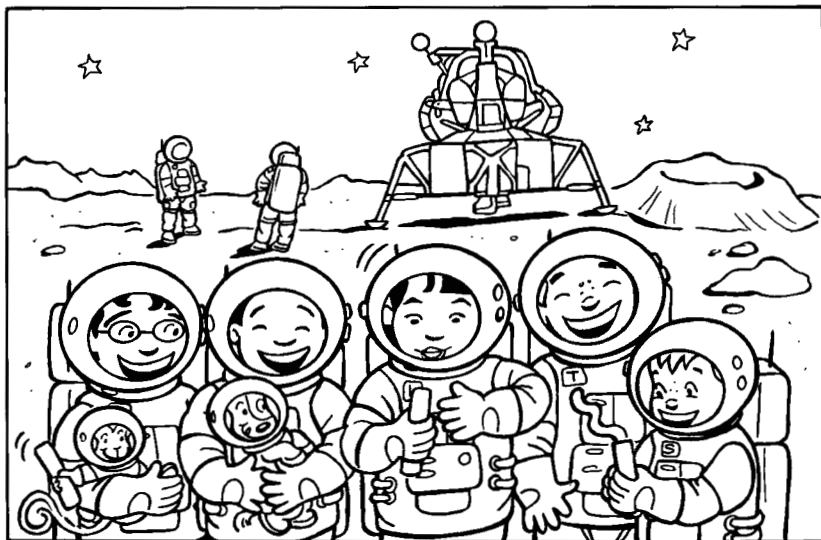
Within seconds, the children were back in the park, looking up at the moon.

"Hi, Buzz. These kids rescued me from the Copernicus Crater. We should find some sort of reward for them."

"Let's get back to the Eagle and see what we can find," answered Buzz.

They all followed the two astronauts to their lunar module, the Eagle. When they reached the Eagle, Commander Armstrong climbed the steps and reached inside. He brought a small box from the module.

Commander Armstrong opened the box and handed each of the children a tube.

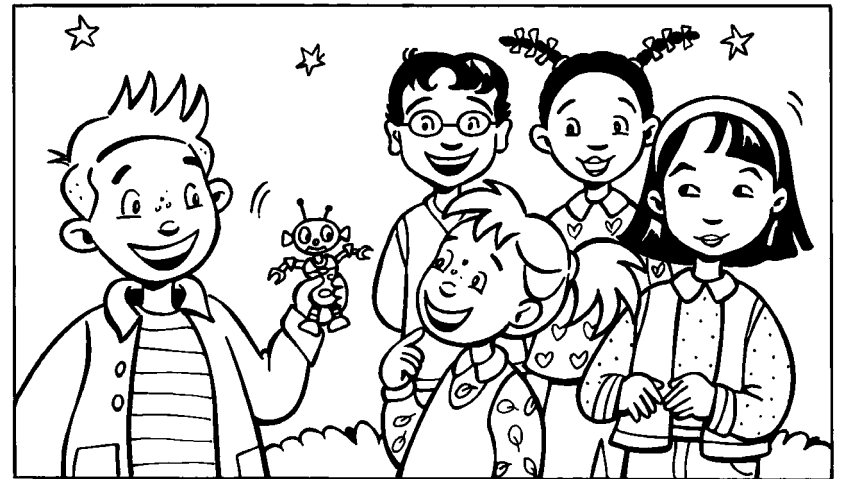


"Don't be silly, Sam," chuckled Andy.

"Astronauts have been on the moon. They didn't say there was any cheese there."

"Maybe they didn't go to the right place," insisted Sam.

"We could find out for ourselves. RK-5 could take us to the moon," said Lucy.



Just then a little voice came from Tommy's pocket. "Yes, I can take you to Earth's moon," said the voice.

Tommy reached into his pocket. He pulled out RK-5, his little robot friend.

"But we can't go to the moon," said Kim.

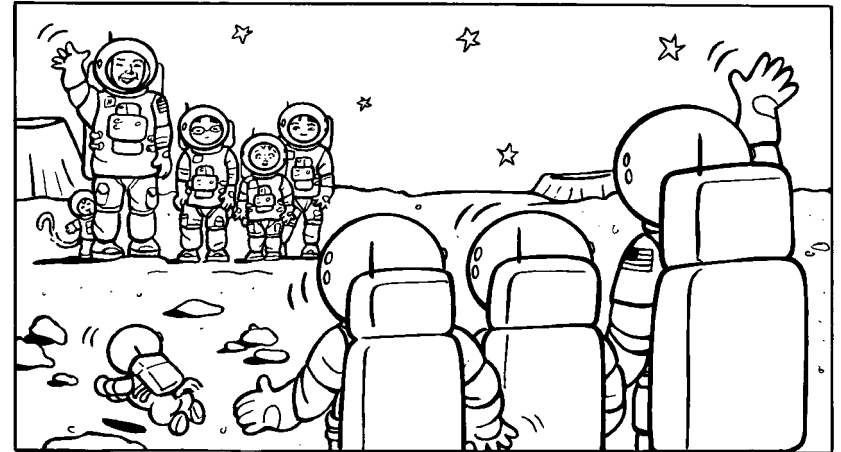
"We don't have space suits."

"Do not worry," answered RK-5. "I can arrange your space suits too."

"What are we waiting for?" urged Tommy.

"Let's go to the moon."

RK-5 told Tommy to press E-M-0-7-2-0-1-9-6-9 x 7 on the little robot's number pad. After pressing the final number, there was a flash of light and a cloud of blue smoke. When the smoke cleared, the children were no longer sitting on the big blue bench in the park.



The astronaut was soon standing in front of them. "Where on Earth did you two come from?" he asked.

"We did come from Earth," said Tommy.

"But it's a long story. I'll explain later. You must help now. There's an injured astronaut over there."

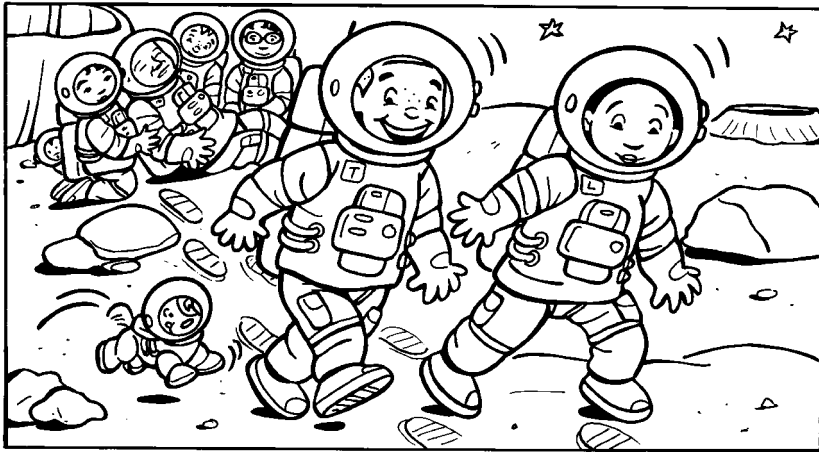
"It must be Commander Armstrong. I've been searching for him," replied the astronaut. "Take me to him. By the way, my name is Buzz Aldrin."

When they got back to the others, Commander Armstrong had recovered.

"Who do you think he is?" asked Kim.

"His name is there on his spacesuit—Neil Armstrong," answered Tommy. "But what do we do with him now?"

"Let's follow his tracks and see where he came from," suggested Lucy. "You three wait here. Tommy and I will see if we can find his spaceship."

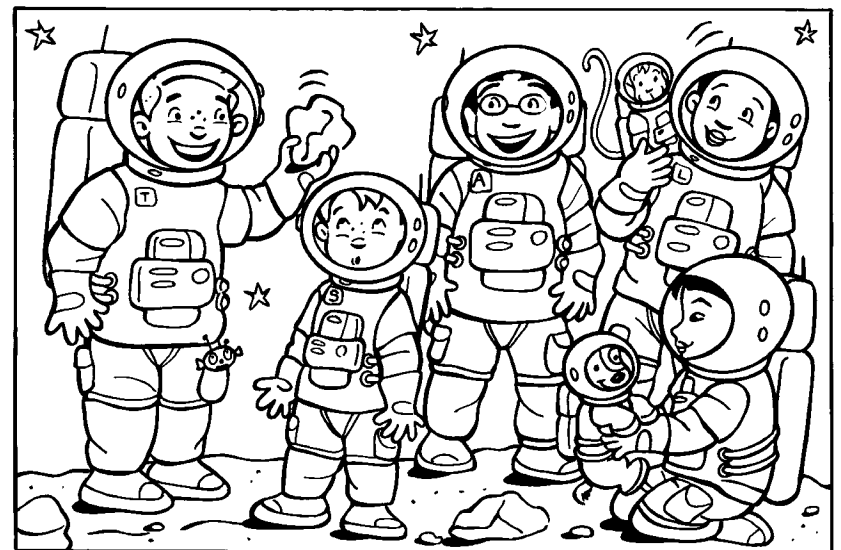


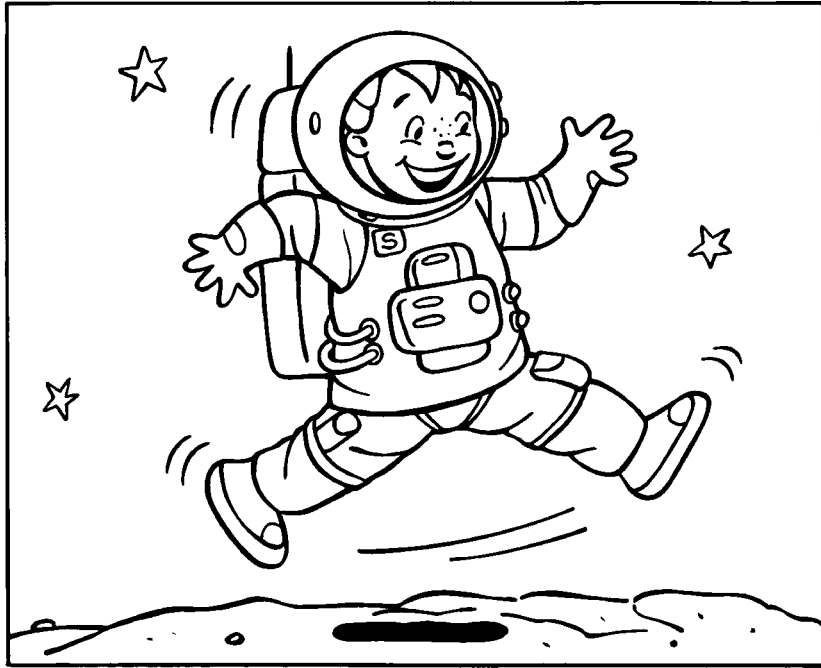
Tommy and Lucy set off following the tracks of Neil Armstrong from the edge of the crater. They had walked for about 10 minutes when they saw an astronaut walking toward them.

Tommy opened his eyes and looked around. He saw his friends wearing really cool spacesuits. Even his dog, Taffy, and Bongo, the monkey, had their own little spacesuits.

Tommy waved his hands at the others. "Can you hear me?" he asked. He heard everyone replying, "Yes, I can," in his space suit helmet.

Tommy bent down and picked up a rock. "Well, Sam," laughed Tommy, "these rocks sure don't feel like cheese."

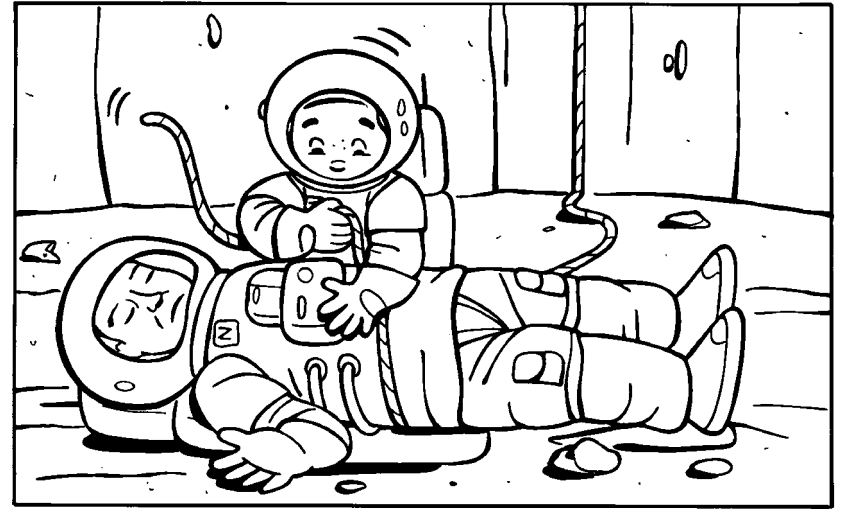




Sam was the first to take a step. "Wow, I feel so light. I'm almost floating," she giggled.

Andy leapt into the air and came down again about ten meters away. "Look at me," he laughed. "I'm the long jump champion of the moon."

"There's not much to see here," said Kim. "Just dust and rocks. I think we should go back."



Tommy untied the rope from his waist and attached it to the fallen astronaut.

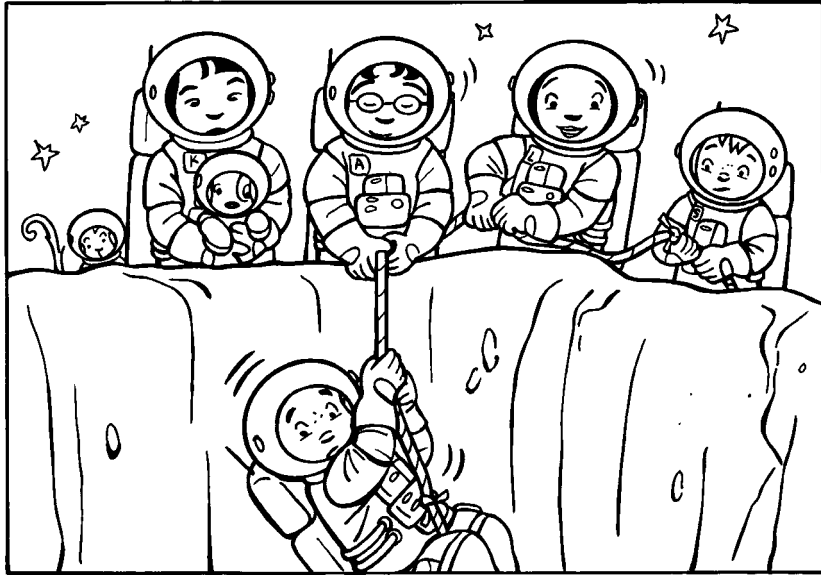
"Pull him up slowly," instructed Tommy.

They were quite surprised that it was fairly easy to pull him up.

"How come he's so light?" asked Andy.

Lucy told him it was because everyone seems about four times lighter on the moon.

They made the astronaut comfortable, then pulled Tommy back up.



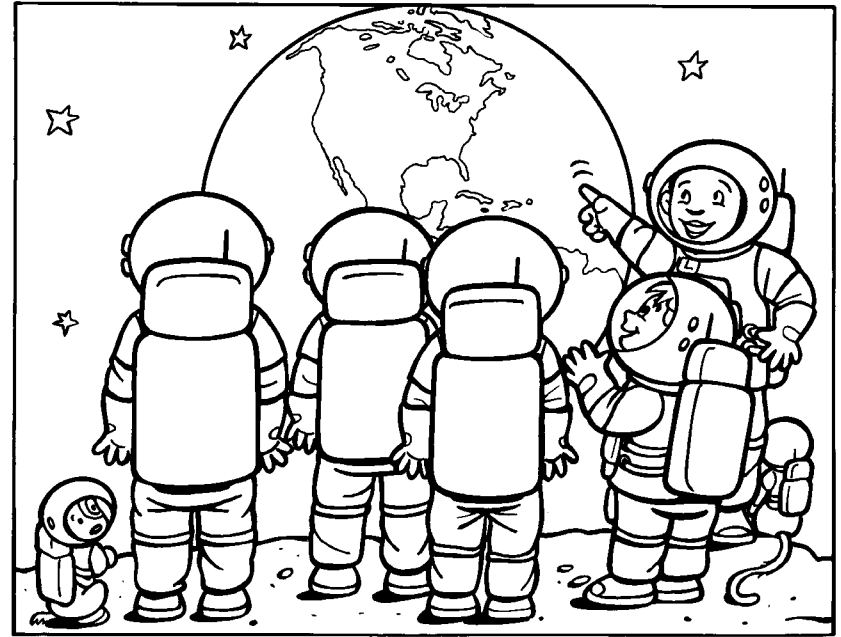
They quickly tied together the five ropes. Tommy then looped the rope around his waist and tied a big knot.

"I'm ready," said Tommy. "Lower me down slowly."

The four friends did as Tommy asked and within a few minutes Tommy was standing over the astronaut.

"He's breathing," Tommy told the others.

"I think he fell over the edge of the crater and knocked himself out."



Tommy told everyone that they should take a look around before going back. Everyone followed Tommy as he bounced up a little hill.

"Turn around, everyone," asked Lucy.

"Look at Earth behind us. It's beautiful."

"It looks like a full moon, but four times as big," observed Andy.

They were suddenly distracted by barking in their helmets.

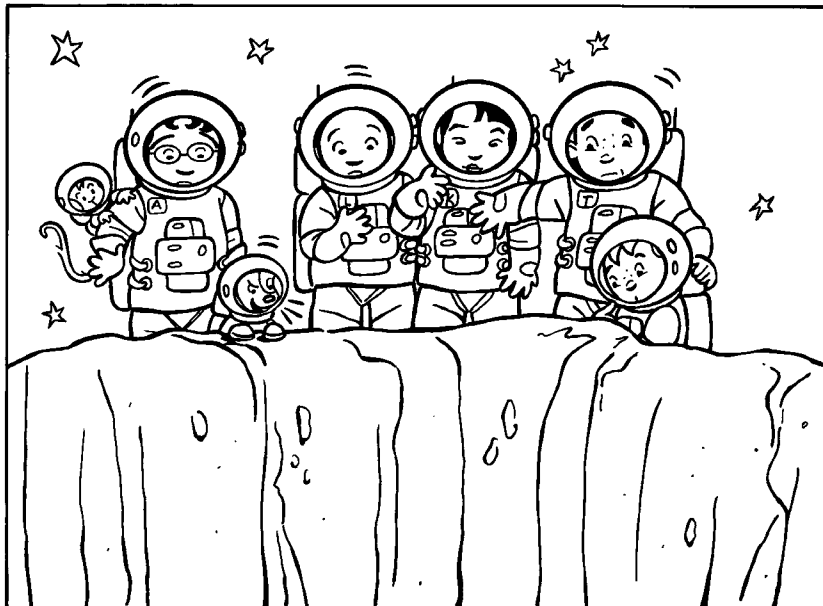
They saw Taffy barking loudly at the edge of a huge hole.

"I think Taffy's found something in that crater," said Tommy.

"What's a crater?" asked Sam. "Is that where the cheese is kept?"

"No, silly. It where a huge meteorite has hit the surface of the moon and has made a big hole."

They all reached the edge of the crater.



They looked down to see what Taffy was barking at. They were surprised to see an astronaut. He was completely still, lying on his back.

"Is he dead?" asked Sam.

"I'll go down there and find out," said Tommy.

"It's so steep. How will you get down?" asked Kim.

"We have ropes in our backpacks. We'll tie them together and you all can lower me down," said Tommy.

